

In re Patent Application of:

KRAUS et al.

Serial No. 10/032,435

Filed: DECEMBER 31, 2001

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for locating ~~the~~ a center of a circle, ~~said the~~ method comprising the steps of:

establishing a first point at ~~the~~ an edge of ~~said~~ the circle, by aligning a pivot post of a base member with a lower edge of the circle;

~~positioning a~~ establishing second and third ~~point at~~ points at the edge of ~~said the~~ circle by longitudinally extending an extendable member that engages the base member so that a pair of opposing members move responsive to movement of the extendable member to a position where circle edge locators positioned at respective ends of the opposing members are aligned with respective second and third edges of the circle; and

maintaining accurate a spatial relationship between said the first, second, and third point and a fourth point such that said spatial relationship results in said fourth point to be at points so that the center of said the circle is identified by a circle center indicator positioned at an end of the extendable member; and

~~adjusting said accurate spatial relationship for the dimensions of said circle to be measured.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein the said step of~~ further comprising adjusting ~~said accurate the~~ spatial relationship between ~~said the~~ first, second, and third, ~~and fourth point further comprises the steps of:~~ points to the dimension of the circle, wherein adjusting comprises the steps of:

~~rotating an assembly of components about a pivot~~ maintaining the first point that is at the edge of ~~said the~~

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~~circle, where said pivot point is said first point at the edge of the circle; and~~

~~moving a component of said assembly, said component being held in accurate spatial relationship to said pivot point, where said movement positions a first and second specific portion of said component at different locations at the edge of said circle where said first specific portion is said longitudinally extending the extendable member to~~
laterally extend the flexible members so that the passageways of the flexible members are aligned with the second point at the edge of the circle and said second specific portion is said the third point at the edge of said the circle, and where said movement positions a third specific portion of said component at the center of said circle, where said third specific portion is said fourth point at the center of said circle.

3. . (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with Claim 1 ~~wherein said step of~~ further comprising adjusting said accurate the spatial relationship between said the first, second, and third, and fourth point further points to the dimension of the circle, wherein adjusting comprises the steps of:

~~rotating an assembly of components about a pivot maintaining the first point that is at the edge of said the circle, where said pivot point is said first point at the edge of the circle; and~~

~~moving components of said assembly, where said components are held in accurate spatial relationship to each other and said pivot point, where said movement positions a first and second specific portion of said components at different locations at the edge of said circle where said~~

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~~first specific portion is said engaging an adjust knob on the extendable member to longitudinally extend the extendable member and laterally extend the flexible members so that the passageways of the flexible members are aligned with the second point at the edge of the circle and said second specific portion is said the third point at the edge of said the circle, and where said movement positions a third specific portion of said components at the center of said circle, where said third specific portion is said fourth point at the center of said circle.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for locating the a center of a circle, said apparatus comprising:

a first component ~~with~~ comprising a ~~specific~~ portion that ~~may~~ to be aligned with ~~positioned at a point on the an~~ edge of a the circle to thereby define a first point;

a second component ~~that is held in accurate spatial relationship with that engages~~ said first component, ~~where~~ said second component may be moved relative to said first component, ~~whereby the means of holding said accurate spatial relationship positions a first specific portion of said second component~~ said second component being defined as an extendable member having a pair of opposing flexible portions connected thereto, each flexible portion having a circle edge locator defined by a passageway formed through an end portion thereof, and a circle center indicator defined by a passageway formed through an end of the extendable member, the circle center indicator being positioned at the center of a the circle when a second and third specific portion of the component the circle edge locators and the portion of the first component are positioned by said movement at the edge aligned with the respective edges of said the circle when the said specific

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~~portion of said first component is also at the edge of said circle.~~

5. (Currently Amended) A An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein ~~said means of holding said accurate spatial relationship positions said first specific portion of~~ said second component further comprises an adjust knob to laterally move the extendable member to position the circle center indicator at the center of a given circle within a range of circle sizes when ~~said second and third specific portions of said second component~~ the circle edge locators are moved to the edge of said given circle within the same said range of circle sizes.

6. (Currently Amended) A An apparatus in accordance with Claim 5 4 wherein ~~said specific portion the~~ portion of said first component that defines the first point is a pivot ~~point~~ post to be maintained at an edge of the circle while the extendable member is longitudinally moved to thereby laterally move flexible members and align the circle edge locators with respective edges of the circle so that the circle center indicator is positioned at the center of the circle when the pivot post and circle edge locators are at edges of the circle.

7. (New) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said first component is a base member, and wherein said extendable member slidably engages said base member.

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8. (New) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said base member has a longitudinal cavity and a pair of opposing lateral cavities.

9. (New) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said lateral cavities extend outwardly from said longitudinal cavity at an angle of about 60 degrees.

10. (New) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said extendable member further comprises an adjust knob connected thereto.

11. (New) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said pivot post engages a longitudinally extending passageway formed through said extendable member.

12. (New) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said flexible portions are at least one of a spring and elastomeric material.

13. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the pivot post has a passageway formed therethrough.

14. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the pivot post remains stationary when the extendable member is extended.

15. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the opposing members move laterally responsive to longitudinal movement of the extendable member.

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16. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein each opposing member is defined by at least one of a flexible member and a rotatable member.

17. (New) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the circle edge locators have passageways formed therethrough.